

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY LA/DP:HJOHNSON:GS

APPROVED BY AA/LA:ALVALDEZ

RDP/O:MLDILEGGE (DRAFT)

RDP/O:TMOSER (DRAFT)

RDP/O:WGLYLES (DRAFT)

LA/DP:REULBERTSON

LA/SA/RWEBER LA/CAR/WWHEELER

ARA/ECP:SROGERS M/MO/RGMAYS JR

ARA:JBUSHNELL

EB/TCA/JBILLER LA/CEN/RGARUFI

-----008148 080422Z /64

R 072000Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 058060

JOINT STATE/AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: REIMBURSABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

REFERENCE: STATE 305827

1. RESPONSES TO REFTTEL ON THE WHOLE SUPPORT THE CONCLUSION THAT RDP OFFERS SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE U.S.-LATIN AMERICAN COOPERATION. AS EXPECTED, POTENTIAL FOR RDP UTILIZATION IS GREATER IN SOME COUNTRIES THAN IN OTHERS. ALSO, IN SOME CASES, THE POTENTIAL APPEARS GREATER IN THE FUTURE THAN NOW. ALL POSTS AGREE THAT RDP UTILIZATION
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 058060

WOULD BE SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCED IF COSTS COULD SOMEHOW BE REDUCED AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS DEVELOPED. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE COST QUESTION AND HAVE ALREADY INITIATED EFFORTS TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS.

2. ON THE BASIS OF THE RESPONSES TO REFTTEL, AID IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL TO LATIN AMERICA ON

A PILOT BASIS TO TEST RDP'S POTENTIAL. SECTION 661 OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR GLOBAL PLACEMENT OF A LIMITED NUMBER OF TECHNICAL SERVICES SPECIALISTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO SERVE AS LIAISON WITH HOST GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR OFFICIALS TO ASSIST IN IDENTIFYING THOSE TECHNOLOGIES AVAILABLE FROM U.S. SOURCES THAT WILL AID IN MEETING DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES. BECAUSE OF THE DEMONSTRATED POTENTIAL OF RDP ACTIVITY IN VENEZUELA, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ASSIGNING ONE OFFICER TO CARACAS WITH RESPONSIBILITY EXCLUSIVELY FOR VENEZUELA. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING AT THIS TIME THE ASSIGNMENT TO ANOTHER LATIN POST OF ONE ADDITIONAL OFFICER WHO WOULD HAVE REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE WITH THESE FIRST ASSIGNMENTS, WE WOULD THEN CONSIDER ESTABLISHING ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL POSITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE NEXT YEAR OR TWO.

3. REFTEL RESPONSES INDICATE THAT THE MOST PROMISING POSSIBILITIES FOR RDP EXIST, ASIDE FROM VENEZUELA, IN BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR, CENTRAL AMERICA, AND PARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN. DEPENDING ON HOW EFFICIENTLY AND FLEXIBLY THE PROGRAM CAN BE MADE TO OPERATE, THE LONGER-RANGE POTENTIAL FOR RDP COULD ENCOMPASS VIRTUALLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE HEMISPHERE.

4. RDP REPRESENTATIVES, WHERE AND WHEN APPROPRIATE, MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 058060

ALSO ASSIST EMBASSIES/AID MISSIONS IN A BROADER DEVELOPMENTAL CAPACITY. IN ADDITION TO THEIR PRIMARY FUNCTION OF PROMOTING REIMBURSABLE PROGRAMS WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES COULD MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH WE HAVE IN THE PAST COOPERATED CLOSELY UNDER OUR REGULAR AID PROGRAMS. RDP REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE EMBASSY STAFF AND ACCREDITED TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS PARTICULARLY FROM THOSE POSTS WHERE RDP POTENTIAL CURRENTLY EXISTS AS TO WHERE AN RDP REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COULD MOST EFFECTIVELY BE LOCATED WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. ALSO WOULD APPRECIATE REACTIONS TO THE IDEA OF THIS AND OTHER SUCH REPRESENTATIVES SOONER OR LATER EVOLVING INTO BROADER DEVELOPMENT ATTACHES. VANCE

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